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"Talking Points on National Security", U.S.-China, Taiwan Relations

Max S. Baucus

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_____ Talking Points on National Security/US-China/Taiwan Relations

(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

_____ 12/07/2000

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To: MSB through Zak
Dt: 07 December
Re: Talking points on national security\US-China\Taiwan Relations

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On US Sanctions Waiver Against China for Iran\Pakistan Missile Part Sales

Background: On November 21, the Clinton administration announced the waiver of penalties against China for supplying missile parts to Iran and Pakistan, after Chinese officials formally pledged to end the practice. Republicans promptly accused the administration of rewarding China for a mere promise, rather than concrete action.

As with China's trade agreement with us, this is an important test for China's leadership and US commitment to monitor China's compliance. The reality of what they have agreed to must be enforced and China knows that U.S. and Congress will be watching closely.

My sincere hope is that irrespective of past behavior concerning their relationships with Iran and Pakistan, that China will recognize this opportunity to hold strong to their commitment NOT to assist in the development in any way of ballistic missile programs or missiles themselves -- which may make it harder for Iran and Pakistan to develop long range nukes -- and move them one step closer to perhaps joining the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). That should be the end goal here.

On Taiwanese President Chen's Urging of U.S. to Drop the "Three No's" Policy

Background: On December 6, President Chen Shui-bian's Chen met a U.S. delegation that included Winston Lord, former U.S. ambassador to China; Kenneth Lieberthal, a former senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council; and Douglas Paal, president of the Washington-based Asia Pacific Policy Center and told them that he hoped Washington would avoid mentioning its "three-no policy," which opposes Taiwan independence, the recognition of two Chinas or one Taiwan and one China.

- The United States has and will continue to abide by our commitment to a "one China" policy that has served every Administration well since 1972. We are bound by the formal agreements outlined in each of the three communiques between the US and China.
- Taiwan has undergone a dramatic change in President Chen's election and I commend the spirit of what has been not just a peaceful transition of power on his part, but one which I hope will continue to promote our longstanding position of peaceful cross strait dialogue between China and Taiwan to resolve their differences.
- At the same time, I want to make clear that the US position has NOT changed and we will continue not to tolerate any threats or threats of force on China against Taiwan.

On Perceived Split in Support for President Chen and Taiwan Nationalist Party Threat

Background: Taiwan Nationalists have tried to undermine Chen's position by hinting at a possible visit by senior official in Taiwan's Nationalist Party to China which could further weaken the faltering administration of Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian, whose election in March ended 55 years of Nationalist rule, by highlighting his failure to improve relations with Beijing.

- Overriding guidance is never to comment on internal dynamics of other countries.
- I hold to the position that the United States does not play the role of mediator or negotiator in these type of situations. What's in the best interest for all parties -- including the United States -- is peaceful transition, one that promotes dialogue within Taiwan and between China rather than unproductive steps that take the process backwards.
- I welcomed the democratic transition of power on Taiwan and continue to support democratic rule on the island.

politics
steps at waters edge

what's
low
here?